

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45, 48-56 and 60-143 are currently pending in the application. However, claims 1-32 and 59-124 are withdrawn from consideration. Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 33-45, 48-56, 127-128, 131-133 & 136-143 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 33-45, 48-56, 127-128, 131-133 and 136-143 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Westbury et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,963; hereinafter “Westbury”) in view of Savino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,167; hereinafter “Savino”) in view of Swan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,304; hereinafter “Swan”) in further view of Boucher et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. No. 2003/0097306; hereinafter “Boucher”).

Claim 33 recites, *inter alia*, a system comprising a sender computer system comprising a processor configured to transmit *object identification data identifying an object*. The object is *defined by a sender* to identify either a product, a package containing the product, or a group of packages containing products. The system also comprises a carrier computer system comprising a processor configured to receive the object identification data, receive *package identification data*, receive *event data* that is *generated as the object passes* through at least *one portal* having at least one scanner. The processor of the carrier computer system is further configured to *link the object identification data directly with the package identification data and link the event data directly with the package identification data, and store the object identification data in association with the linked package identification data and the event data in association with the linked package identification data*.

Applicant submits that the combination of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher does not teach or suggest at least any carrier computer system comprising a processor that is configured to link the object identification data directly with the package identification data and link the event data directly with the package identification data and store the object identification data in association with the linked package identification data and the event data in association with the linked package identification data, as recited by claim 33.

In rejecting claim 33, the Examiner correctly concedes that Westbury, Swan and Boucher do not teach or suggest the above features of claim 33. However, the Examiner relies on column 2, lines 4-6, column 3, lines 25-47 and Figures 2 and 5 of Savino to make up for the deficiencies of Westbury, Swan and Boucher. (See pg. 4 of the Office Action)

In contrast to claim 33, the cited portions and indeed all of Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, at most discloses that a bar code 500 stored in a database 14 is linked with a customer name and address 502, packing slip number 504, a customer purchase order number 506, a box quantity number 508, a part quantity number 510, a customer part number 512, a manufacturer part number 514, and a shipping date 516. (Col. 3, lines 26-47 & FIG. 5 of Savino) In this regard, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher explains that when the bar code 500 is scanned purchase and shipping information associated with a purchase order can be obtained.

However, nowhere in Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, is there any mention, teaching or suggestion relating to any processor of a computer system that is configured to *link* object identification data, identifying an object, *directly* with package identification data and *linking* event data, that is generated as an object passes through a portal, *directly with the package identification data*, as recited by claim 33. Additionally, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher is altogether silent and does not contemplate any processor of a computer system that is configured to store *the object identification data* in association with the *linked* package identification data and *the event data* in association with the linked package identification data, as recited by claim 33.

In contrast to claim 33, merely linking a customer name and address 502, packing slip number 504, customer purchase order number 506, box quantity number 508, part quantity number 510, customer part number 512, manufacturer part number 514, and a shipping date 516 generally to a bar code 500 and storing this data in a database as most disclosed by Savino, alone or alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the features of claim 33. Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher does not teach or suggest the one-to-one relationship of linking the object identification data directly with package identification data and the one-to-one relationship of linking the event data directly with the package identification data, as recited by claim 33. Additionally, merely storing the purchase and shipping information 502,

504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514 and 516 generally in database 14 as at most disclosed by Savino, alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest features of claim 33. In contrast to claim 33, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher is altogether silent regarding the one-to-one relationship of storing the object data in association with linked package identification data and the one-to-one relationship of storing event data in association with linked package identification data, as recited by claim 33.

Based on at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the combination of Westbury, Swan and Boucher is deficient and does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 33 and its dependent claims 34-45, 48-56 and 136.

Since claim 127 contains features that are analogous to, though not necessarily coextensive with, the features recited in independent claim 33, Applicant submits that independent claim 127 and its dependent claims 128, 131-133 and 137 are patentable at least for reasons analogous to those submitted for claim 33.

II. Rejection of Claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 & 135 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Westbury, Savino, Swan, Boucher and in further view of Bengston (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0009396; hereinafter "Bengston"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, the combination of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher is deficient vis-à-vis independent claims 33 and 127 and Bengston does not make up for the deficiencies of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher and is not cited for such. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 33 and 127. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice

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of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Zare is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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